

Pending claims with Examiner's amendment of September 1, 2004.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An inactivated virus particle, as a reinforced immunogen, prepared from a culture of cells infected with virus belonging to a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses, wherein the process of preparation comprises a step of inactivation followed by a step of purification solely by physical means, wherein a neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with the virus particles is about twice to about 10 times the neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with inactivated virus particles prepared from virus cultured in mouse brain wherein the particles are chemically purified and subsequently inactivated.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A method for producing an inactivated virus particle, comprising culturing virus belonging to a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses in a cell line, inactivating the cell culture and then purifying the virus solely by physical means, wherein a neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with the virus particles is about twice to about 10 times the neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with inactivated virus particles prepared from virus cultured in mouse brain wherein the particles are chemically purified and subsequently inactivated.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell line is a Vero cell.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the inactivating step is conducted at a temperature in a range of about 4°C to about 10°C.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the virus belonging to a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses is a Beijing strain or a ThCMAR67/93 strain of Japanese encephalitis virus.

9. (original) An inactivated vaccine comprising the inactivated virus particles of claim 1.

10. (currently amended) A diagnostic agent for infectious disease caused by a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses, comprising the ~~entirety or a part of the~~ inactivated virus particles of claim 1 as an antigen.

13. (previously presented) The inactivated virus particle of claim 1 wherein said cells are inactivated at a temperature in a range of about 4°C to about 10°C.

15. (original) The inactivated virus particle of claim 1, wherein said culture of cells is a culture of Vero cells.

16. (original) The inactivated virus particle of claim 1, wherein the virus belonging to a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses is a Beijing strain or a ThCMAR67/93 strain of Japanese encephalitis virus.